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## REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

B 1 1. (amended) A method for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said method comprising the steps of:

- 10 providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:
- (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and
  - (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue; and
- 15 applying said treatment composition to said predetermined area of the body so that said macrolide antibiotic penetrates said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

B 2 5. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing said treatment  
20 composition comprises:  
selecting said macrolide antibiotic from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin.

B 3 10. (amended) A treatment composition for alleviating a disease state resulting from a  
25 microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

- (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and
- (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied to said predetermined area of the body.

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